

RURAL DISTRICT OF TENTERDEN

KENT



ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

TENTERDEN (KENT) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
THE YEAR 1955

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1955.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General, the mid-year Home Population increased by 20, from 7,190 in 1954 to 7,210 in 1955.

The number of births increased by 4, from 116 in 1954 to 120 in 1955 and the birth-rate was accordingly 16.62 per 1000 estimated resident population; adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability factor this becomes 18.11. That for England and Wales was 15.0.

There were 4 still-births and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 16.39; that for England and Wales was 23.1.

The number of infant deaths was 6, and the corresponding infant mortality rate was 50 per 1,000 live births; that for England and Wales was 24.9. The causes of death were (i) Congenital Heart Disease (ii) Broncho-pneumonia and Enterocolitis (iii) Pulmonary Atalectasis and Prematurity (iv) Septicaemia and Pyelo-nephritis (v) Congenital septic defect of heart (vi) Prematurity. Prematurity and congenital abnormalities usually account for the majority of infant deaths.

There was no death amongst mothers due to Pregnancy or Childbirth.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 75, and the crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 10.40; when adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is based on a standard population for age and sex distribution, the rate becomes 8.53. This was much lower than that for England and Wales which was 11.7.

37 of those deaths were due to Heart, Circulatory and Vascular Diseases which, as a group, cause the highest number of deaths due to the fact that the majority of aged people die naturally from these causes.

The second highest cause of deaths was Cancer, which was responsible for 14 deaths. 4 of those were from Cancer of the Stomach and 2 from Cancer of the Lung, the latter both males.

The other deaths were miscellaneous and no exceptional cause was recorded.

There was no death due to Infectious Disease. The wide range of modern Antibiotics available, are highly successful in the treatment of most of the Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Poliomyelitis. There is good reason to hope, however, that the new Poliomyelitis vaccine will produce sufficient immunity to prevent the onset of paralyses or at least, will prevent the really serious bulbar form of the disease which can be so overwhelmingly fatal.

3 cases, which were diagnosed in Pembury Hospital as having

suffered from the non-paralytic form of Poliomyelitis, occurred in the village of Rolvenden; all were school-children from a housing estate who attended the same school. All made successful recoveries. It is equivocal in non-epidemic phases, and when no paralytic cases occur, whether such illnesses are in fact due to Poliomyelitis, as there are other viruses which can reproduce a similar clinical picture.

The expected biennial outbreak of Measles occurred, 151 cases having been notified. It is not practicable to prevent this highly infectious disease in children, as it is most infectious before the eruption of the rash by which it is usually identified by the parents, but apart from the occasional occurrence of its most common complications, i.e. broncho-pneumonia, it is not serious. There has been a recent trend for broncho-pneumonia to occur in the prodromal phase of the disease, or to coincide with the invasive phase, and as the pneumonia often advances rapidly, even within 12 hours, to an advanced state, the earlier the diagnosis, the better would be the chances of a successful and quick recovery.

There was also a minor outbreak of Whooping Cough, 43 cases having been notified. This disease, as with Measles, is difficult to prevent, particularly amongst school-children, and it would seem that the best method of prevention will rest with the production of effective vaccines. The present vaccines, which are fairly widely used by Practitioners and for which substantial claims are put forward, are still "sub-judice" by the Medical Research Council.

A small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in a village school, in all, 8 cases having been notified. The application of strict measures of hygiene terminated the outbreak. It would be difficult or almost impossible for this disease to spread if strict hand-washing and scrubbing of nails were practised after toilet but it is not easy to enforce this particularly in the infant classes in which the infants would require almost constant supervision. This disease in its present form is not usually serious, the sickness and diarrhoea on an average lasting only for a few days, and often there is no blood in the stools which would attract the attention of patients or parents. There is therefore a number of missed cases who become convalescent or chronic carriers, and there is also a number of symptomless carriers. Treatment of these carriers by the modern antibiotics and sulphonamides, is not infrequently prolonged and expensive before the stools become free from the bacilli. It is not surprising, therefore, that outbreaks of the disease occur in widely scattered areas.

3 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. These conformed with the present mild type which is prevalent in this area and all were nursed at home. It is, however, a wise precaution that Practitioners should take nose and throat 'release' swabs before any child is allowed to return to school, as convalescent carriers are occasionally the cause of small outbreaks in schools; when the carrier rate may also become high.

Regarding Tuberculosis, 2 new cases of the Respiratory type were notified. Much progress has been made within recent years in the treatment of this insidious disease, and patients, who are diagnosed in the early stages, usually make a complete recovery.

No cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, which is an index of the safety of the milk supplies; these are all designated throughout the District.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and

- 3 -

assistance in the work of the Department and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL.

M.B., ChB., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1955.

Area:- 38,002 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population 7,210

Number of Inhabited Houses According to the
Rate Books 2,545

Rateable Value:- £36,658

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £147

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Tenterden Rural District is predominantly agricultural in its interests - there are only a few light industries, and generally, social conditions are satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Tenterden Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1.	Live Births	120	62	58	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	16.62 15.0
	(a) Legitimate	118	61	57		
	(b) Illegitimate	2	1	1		
2.	Stillbirths	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.39 23.1
	(a) Legitimate	2	2	-		
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-		
3.	Deaths	75	36	39	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.40 11.7
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	- Not available
5.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	6	4	2		
	(a) Legitimate	6	4	2		
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				50.0	24.9
	Rate re legitimate infants				50.81	
	Rate re illegitimate infants				-	
6.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	14	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	-
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	
	Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	-

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, 1955.

Whooping Cough	...	....	43
Measles	...	...	151
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1955

ALL CAUSES				Males	Females
				36	39
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	•••	•••	•••	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	•••	•••	•••	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	•••	•••	•••	-	-
4. Diphtheria	•••	•••	•••	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	•••	•••	•••	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	•••	•••	•••	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	•••	•••	•••	-	-
8. Measles	•••	•••	•••	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases			•••	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	•••	•••	•••	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung/bronchus	•••	•••	•••	2	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	•••	•••	•••	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	•••	•••	•••	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			•••	3	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	•••	•••	•••	-	-
16. Diabetes	•••	•••	•••	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	•••	•••	•••	2	5
18. Coronary disease, angina	•••	•••	•••	5	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	•••	•••	•••	1	2
20. Other heart disease	•••	•••	•••	5	11
21. Other circulatory disease	••	•••	•••	1	2
22. Influenza	•••	•••	•••	1	-
23. Pneumonia	•••	•••	•••	2	1
24. Bronchitis	•••	•••	•••	2	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	••	•••	•••	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	•••	•••	•••	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	•••	•••	•••	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	••	•••	•••	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	•••	•••	•••	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	•••	•••	•••	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	•••	•••	•••	2	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases			•••	2	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	•••	•••	•••	3	-
34. All other accidents	•••	•••	•••	3	1
35. Suicide	•••	•••	•••	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	•••	•••	•••	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1955

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1941).

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)	4	43	37	32	44	56	69	61	58	112	96	105	108	73	5	903
1951 - 1955																
1950 or earlier	45	28	25	18	17	2	8	11	23	12	-	-	-	-	-	189

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1955.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

<u>(A) Diphtheria Immunisation</u>		1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Inoculations	5	60	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	2	34	9	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	48
<u>(B) Vaccination</u>															Before		Total
Primary Vaccination	33	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	52
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	11

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1955.

Age Periods	New Cases		Deaths		Total Cases on Register	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—
					1	1
Totals	1	1	—	—	—	2
					12	5
					33	18

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The Cranbrook and District Water Company was incorporated with the Mid-Kent Water Company on the 1st October, 1955, in accordance with the provisions of the Kent Water Bill and the latter Company now supplies the whole of the District, apart from isolated dwellings or home-steeds.

The following table gives the number of samples which were examined bacteriologically and chemically.

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Raw Water	2	2 Unsatisfactory	1	1 Unsatisfactory
Treated Water	19	19 Satisfactory	3	3 Satisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were from dwellings with well supplies and the tenants were advised to boil the water before use.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year, work was continued on the construction of a new sewerage scheme for the Parish of Biddenden. The schemes for Woodchurch, High Halden, half of Appledore and half of Rovenden have not yet commenced as financial approval by the Ministry is still awaited.

3. Housing

The number of houses built by the Council during the year was 50.

The following table describes the number of houses inspected for defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts and the action taken.

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts.	78
Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation	15
Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense	63
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action	14
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	4

Number of houses demolished	3
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	16
Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled	-

4. Hop Pickers Camps

The number of camps occupied during the season was 15, accommodating approximately 1,000 pickers. These were inspected before, during and after picking. Repair and improvement work was carried out to a number of closet compartments.

5. Milk Supplies

The number of Registered Distributors was 6 and that of Registered Dairies was 3.

Licences granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949,

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	7	1
Sterilised	2	-
T.T. (raw)	4	-
Accredited	-	-

Milk Sampling

	<u>Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of unsatisfactor Samples</u>
Pasteurised	28	-
T.T. T.T. (Pasteurised)	25 6	5 -
Sterilised	1	-
Biological Examination of raw milks.	2	-

6. Meat and other Foods

There were 5 private Slaughterhouses where routine and emergency slaughtering was done during the year (see table), and 17 food preparing premises including 5 Bakehouses and 11 Restaurant and Hotel kitchens which were regularly inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	140	-	22	113	520
No. inspected	140	-	22	113	520
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	6	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	-	-	4	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	16%	-	-	9%	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2%	-	-	-	1%

Ice Cream

No. of Producer-Retailers	...	-
No. of Retailers	...	27

Sampling

Grade I	-	13	}	No Pathogenic organisms cultivated.
Grade II	-	4		
Grade III	-	1		
Grade IV	-	-		

Appropriate action was taken in respect of the unsatisfactory samples; no disease producing organisms were, however, cultivated from any sample.

Food condemned during the year - 17 cwts. 1 qr.. 1 lb.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

7. Rodent Control

Survey of the district has been continued and necessary treatment carried out by the Council's rodent operator, including sewers etc.

The total number of infestations dealt with in the year was 200, made up as follows:-

(a) As a result of survey	144
(b) Reported to Office	56
<hr/>	

8. Sanitary Inspection of the District

Details of inspection work carried out:-

	No.	Visits	Defect
Bakehouses	5	33	-
Slaughterhouses	5	194	2
Other food-preparing premises (excluding ice cream)	12	85	-
Factories and workplaces	46	111	3
Offensive trades	-	-	-
Total number of inspections during the year	-	2,656	

Housing

Overcrowding	-		
Keeping of animals	-		
Offensive accumulations	1		
Refuse receptacles	-		
Sanitary accommodation (insufficient or defective)	31		
Drainage (re-constructed or repaired)	69		
Cesspools (abolished)	-		
Cesspools (repaired)	-		
Cesspools (emptied)	11 (arranged with Contractors on behalf of owners)		
Roofs, Chimneys, rainwater pipes etc.	10		
Walls	17		
Dampness	18		
Floors	20		
Windows and ventilation	10		
Baths, lavatory basins, washing accommodation, sinks, etc.	38		
Cooking facilities etc.	19		
Water supplies	1		
Yards and paving	7		
Miscellaneous	16		

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	39	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	58	3	-
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	3	14	-	-
	46	111	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	- ^x	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	3	2	-	3	-

^x Alterations being carried out.

